Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: P-3 CONSTRUCTION

SUMMARY: FIRST PHASE OF NAVY P-3 CONSTRUCTION FINISHED AT KADENA TO HIGH SATISFACTION OF THE NAVY. END SUMMARY.

1. CEREMONIES HELD APRIL 3 BY THE GOJ DEFENSE FACILITIES
AGENCY MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION AT KADENA AIR BASE OF THE ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES BEING BUILT UNDER THE JFAP FOR THE NAVY P-3 ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT AND THE NAVY-MARINE ROTATIONAL FIGHTER SQUADRONS TO REPLACE THE FACILITIES AT NAHA AIR BASE. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 48 CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES GATHERED TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION. IN THE SPEECHES THE DFA NOTED THAT THE WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE DESPITE THE NEED FOR 24-HOUR

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WORK SCHEDULES, PROBLEMS ARISING FROM STRIKES, RISING COSTS FOLLOWING THE OIL CRISIS, AND DIFFERENCES IN U.S. AND JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS. PHASE TWO WORK - WHICH INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, ETC. - HAS ALSO NOW BEGUN.

2. THE NAVY PLANS TO MOVE THE P-3 PLANES FROM NAHA TO KADENA ON MAY 7, AND MOST OF THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT DURING THE TWO WEEKS ON EITHER SIDE OF THAT DATE. THE CONCERNED NAVY OFFICERS ARE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE FACILITY, CONSIDERING THE HANGERS, ETC. THE BEST THEY HAVE NOW ANYWHERE. THEY FELT THE JAPANESE SIDE, AS A POINT OF HONOR, WAS ANXIOUS TO SHOW CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT, DESPITE THE EARLIER DOUBTS, THEY COULD DELIVER A FIRST

RATE PRODUCT ON TIME THROUGH INTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION METHODS. THE FINAL HITCH INVOLVING A POSSIBLE DELAY IN DELIVERY OF AIR-COOLING EQUIPMENT, WAS HANDLED BY CHARTERING A JAL JET FOR THE PICKUP IN THE U.S.

3. COMMENT: OUR CONTINUOUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND JAPANESE PRIDE PROBABLY COMBINED TO ACHIEVE THIS. IT ENDS UP HAPPILY, WITH OUR NAVY GETTING A CONSIDERABLY BETTER AND OF COURSE MORE MODERN FACILITY THAN THEY LEAVE AT NAHA. WHILE WAITING FOR COMPLETION OF ALL THE CONSTRUCTION THEY WILL HAVE A

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SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT PERIOD OF RUNNING A SPLIT OPERATION, BUT NO MAJOR PROBLEMS ARE NOW FORESEEN. IN RETROSPECT, THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES WERE UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECT IN THEIR CAREFUL AND WHAT SEEMED ALL TOO PROTRACTED MASSAGING OF LOCAL POLITICAL SENTIMENTS. EXCEPT FOR AN OCCASIONAL PEEP FOR THE RECORD, NEITHER THE LOCAL VILLAGE LEADERS NOR LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS PROTESTED OR OBSTRUCTED THE CONSTRUCTION. THUS IN THE END, WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A NOISY AND HARMFUL CONTROVERSY OVER DELAY IN OUR EXISTING NAHA AIRFIELD IS AVERTED AND OUR MOVE WILL BE SATISFACTORILY EXECUTED IN GOOD TIME BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE EXPO.

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